quirement e.g. overseas students. HIV testing may be done for research purposes on approved research protocols with Institutional and ICMR clearances.

—The Government have considered the recommendation of ICMR and accordingly an infection control committee has been made functional in four designated hospitals in metropolitan cities. Training coures have been/are being organised for training of medical, para-medical and laboratory staff.

The Directorate General of Health Services issued detailed guidelines regarding handling and disposal of dead bodies of AIDS cases, care of HIV infected persons and prevention of accidental infection in hospitals.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government of India has drawn up Medium Term plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term plan, it has been decided to strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients at the identified Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include :

—providing clinical care to patients with HIV infection.

—providing counselling to the patients and their spouses/relatives.

—providing continuous medical care to the out-patients.

—collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestation of HIV infection.

—providing training facilities to medical and para-medical personnel in the management of HIV patients.

Ill Effects of Smoking and Chewing of Tobacco

1357. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 31st May, 1990 captioned "India in grip of tobacco epidemic";

(b) whether lakhs of people die premature due to smoking and chewing of tobacco;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken/propose to take any fresh steps to create awareness about ill effects of smoking and chewing of tobacco; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The use of tobacco is substantial health hazard. However, no scientific data regarding number of pre-mature deaths due to smoking and chewing of tobacco in the country is available. The data from the National Cancer Registry project of Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi has shown that about 1/3rd of all the cancer cases relate to the use of tobacco.

(c) and (d) Various health education measures are being undertaken to educate the people about the ill effects of smoking and use of tobacco. "World No Tobacco Day was celebrated on 31st May, 1990" to bring about awareness amongst the masses against smoking and consumption of tobacco.

Overcharging on Drugs

1358. CHOUDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the cases of overcharging which have come to the notice of Government under DPCO, 1979 and 1987;

(b) what are the details of cases where prosecution was launched under DPCO, 1987;

(c) in how many cases of overcharging the amounts have been recovered under DPCO, 1987;

(d) what is the amount calculated in each case and what is the amount recovered so far from each;

(e) what is the position of remaining cases at present;

(f) whether his Ministry are taking any steps to make price control more effective; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The requisite information has been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 86 answered on 13-8-1990.

(b) While no prosecution against any company on overcharging has been launched under DPCO, 1987 so far, suitable action is now being taken and it has been decided to give the defaulter companies a final hearing before launching prosecution a ainst them.

(c) No amount has been recovered on overcharging under DPCO, 1987 so far.

(d) and (e) The requisite information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The present drug Policy is under review to ensure easy and abundant availability of medicines to the consumers at reasonable and fair prices.

Study on Trade Commission relating to Drug Industry

1359. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has assured the drug industry that Trade Commission would not be reduced;

(b) whether it is a fact that in giving this assurance he has sacrificed the interest of the consumer;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no basis for the existing Trade Commission and it is not based on study of actual costs;

(d) whether it is a fact that trade is getting free schemes, gifts etc. apart from the commission;

(e) if so, what is the normal percentage the trade gets on such practices;

(f) whether it is a fact that his Ministry decided to get the study conducted on trade commission by BICP before taking a final decision; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The industry and trade were told that the disinformation regarding reduction in trade margin etc. wa sbaseless and the Government had taken no such decisions.

(c) The existing Trade Margin is based on the decision taken by the Govt. in the light of recommendations made by the Committee constituted for the purpose under the chairmanship of the Chairman BICP.

(d) and (e) Promotional Expenses etc. are not monitored by this Department. However, these expenses are required to be met out of MAPE.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.